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8 Attorney for Plaintiff
9 TAUNYA SMITH

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12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
13 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
14 FRESNO DIVISION

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16 TAUNYA SMITH,
17 Plaintiff,
18 v.
19 KILOLO KIJAKAZI, Acting
20 Commissioner of Social Security,
21 Defendant.

22 Case No. 1:22-cv-01372-SKO
23 STIPULATION AND UNOPPOSED
24 MOTION FOR THE AWARD AND
25 PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND
26 EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE
27 EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT;
28 ORDER
(Doc. 17)

29
30 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their
31 undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded
32 attorney fees and expenses in the amount of \$5,650.00, under the Equal Access to
33 Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This
34 amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by
35 counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 2412(d),
36 1920.
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After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are subject to any offset.

Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel, Francesco Benavides, pursuant to the assignment executed by Plaintiff.

This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Francesco Benavides, including the Law Offices of Francesco Benavides, may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

This award is without prejudice to the rights of Francesco Benavides to seek Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of the EAJA.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 4, 2023

Law Offices of Francesco Benavides

By: /s/ Francesco Benavides
FRANCESCO P. BENAVIDES
Attorney for Plaintiff

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3 Dated: May 4, 2023
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PHILLIP A. TALBERT
United States Attorney
MATHEW W. PILE
Associate General Counsel
Social Security Administration

8 By: *Erin A. Jurrens**
9 ERIN A. JURRENS
10 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney
11 Attorneys for Defendant
12 (*Permission to use electronic signature
13 obtained via email on May 4, 2023).
14

13 ORDER

14 Based upon the parties' Stipulation and Unopposed Motion for the Award and
15
16 Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses (the "Stipulation") (Doc.
17), **IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the amount of \$5,650.00 as authorized
18 by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, be awarded subject to the
19 terms of the Stipulation.
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23 IT IS SO ORDERED.
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Dated: May 4, 2023

/s/ Sheila K. Oberto
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE